

## June 2019 Newsletter

### *Refugee Week*

In our Catholic tradition the month of June is dedicated to the Sacred Heart. There are many references to the Sacred Heart in scripture. Jesus himself said, “Learn from me, for I am gentle and humble of heart” (Matthew 11:29). The heart symbolises the best of humanity. In our common language we use the image of the heart to show love, tenacity, forbearance and endurance.

Last week, June 16 – 22, we celebrated Refugee Week. Originally celebrated in 1986, Refugee Week coincides with World Refugee Day (20 June).

Refugee Week events are often intended to celebrate the contribution of refugees and encourage a better understanding between communities.

As I was reflecting upon the various ways recent refugees have contributed to Australia I was reminded that in many ways we are all refugees. By that I mean that apart from the 1st Australians, we or our ancestors all arrived here from foreign parts. It is this mix of peoples from the whole world that gives us our unique character. The Australian ideal of ‘mateship’ can be seen as an expression of the opening of the heart to others and accepting the other person ‘warts and all’.

*Damian*

## ***New Premises***

Over many years the Archdiocese and the Committee of Management of The Shopfront have been looking into the long-term viability of The Shopfront continuing to operate out of our present premises.

In the past two years I have looked at five properties.

In May the Archdiocese signed a contract to purchase a block of land in Bentley for the purposes of relocation of The Shopfront.

The site is a greenfield site and we will be able to have a purpose built building for our use. The site is walking distance from Welshpool railway station.

The next step will be working with the Archdiocese and architects to draw up plans and having them submitted to the City of Canning for approval. Following this a tender will be put out and the work would then commence.

As you can see the process will not be a quick one and as such we will continue to operate out of our Whatley Crescent building for some time.

As things progress I will keep everyone informed. At any time if you have any questions please do not hesitate to speak with me.

## ***Student Placement***



Jesse joined us in May for a 5 week placement. He is studying a 1 year Diploma in Community Services & Counselling at TAFE, having already completed a Psychology Degree.

He hopes to gain employment or an internship as a counsellor once he finishes at the end of the year as he has a genuine interest in helping people.

Jesse has enjoyed his time at The Shopfront, getting to know some of our visitors and volunteers and says it has helped him with the practical aspect of his studies.

Sadly, Jesse's time with us is nearly up, but we wish him well for the future and thank him for his infectious smile and cheerful disposition.